385 dollars per tonnes from 410 dollars in January, 1991 and is likely to go down further;

(b) whether Government propose to import Palm oil and if so, the quantity to be imported and when;

(c) what are the reasons that Government have increased the issue price by about 40 per cent; and

(d) whether the Chief Minister of Maharashtra has recently protested against the increase in the price of palm oil being distributed through the Public Distribution System and if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAO BIREN-DRA SINGH): (a) International prices of RBD Palmolein which averaged during the month of January, 1991 at around US dollar 372 PMT FOB Malaysia had come down during the month of February, 1991 to a level of about US $ 355 PMT FOB. Freight/Insurance from Malaysia/Indonesia averages US $ 32 PMT. However, an increase in the international prices has been observed in the international market of palm oil in. the first week of March, 1991.

(b) The quantum of edible oils to be imported is decided from time to time keeping in view of the availability of indigenous oils, release of foreign exchange, prices of imported oils in the international market and other factors relating 1o import. Considering the sensitive nature of edible oil market, it is not desirable in the public interest to disclose how much quantity and from where and when the purchases/imports would be made.

(c) and (d) The Central Issue Price of imported edible oil for PDS was previously revised on 1-9-1988. Since then international prices of oils and other inputs had increased considerably and it had, therefore, become necessary to increase the issue price from Rs. 13, 150 PMT to Rs 16 500 PMT and Rs 14, 500 PMT to Rs. 19, 000 PMT in respect of oil supplied in bulk (loose) and in 15 kg. respectively, with effect from 26th January, 1991, to cover break-even cost. It is also considered that a huge gap between the indigenous oil prices and PDS prices for imported oils would lead to diversion of PDS oil through unauthorised channels. The Government of Maharashtra have not favoured the increase in the issue price of imported edible oil on the grounds that this increase at present juncture might lead to price increase of other edible oils *in* the market. It has not been possible to agree to the views of Maharashtra Government in view of the above reasons.

Introduction of New Railway Services in Rajasthan

*188. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to in troduce new railway services in the State of Rajasthan during the year 1991-92;

(b) if so, the details therefor; and

(c) if not whether Government propose to introduce new railway routes in that State?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA)- (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A tri-weekly Air-conditioned Express service between Bombay Central and New Delhi is under consideration which will serve the State of Rajasthan.

(c) A new 120 kilometer long broad gauge line between Mathura and Alwar (90 kms. in Rajasthan) is under construction which when completed will open a new route.

चीनी का उत्पादन

*189. श्री रणजीत सिंह :
श्री बलराम सिंह यादव :

क्या खाद्य और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि वर्ष 1990-91 के चीनी पिराई वर्ष की प्रथम तिमाही के दौरान चीनी का उत्पादन